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Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL  
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1954

INCLUDING THE

Report <sup>of</sup> <sub>the</sub> Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



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Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ILFRACOMBE.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Dr. Boone who had been your Medical Officer of Health since June 1943, died in January 1955. This report therefore relates to the period covered by his service.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. H. MORLEY,

June, 1955.

O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

---

**Public Health Staff :**

*Part-Time Officer :*

*Medical Officer of Health—*

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
(to 27-1-55)

A. H. MORLEY, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (appointed 1-5-55)

*Whole-Time Officers :*

*Senior Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent,  
Housing Officer, Petroleum Inspector.*

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

*Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute  
Food Inspector's Certificate, Liverpool University.*

Clerk—Mrs. M. Potts.

**Committees concerned with matters of public health.**

1. Public Health, Cemetery and Water.
2. Housing Management.



# Statistics.

## General Statistics.

Area (including Foreshore)	...	...	...	5,856 acres
Population :—				
1951 Census	...	...	...	9,218
Mid 1954 Estimate	...	...	...	9,000
Rateable Value (1-4-54)	...	...	...	£88,642
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		...	...	£354 3s. 0d.
Bright sunshine during 1954	...	...	...	1461.2 hours
Rainfall during 1954	...	...	...	50.46 inches

## Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	49	56	105
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)			12.0

Still Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)			35.71

Deaths - All Causes.	Males	Females	Total
	70	73	143
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)		...	15.89
Corrected Death Rate (per 1,000 population) i.e., the rate when adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts in England and Wales.		...	10.64
Death Rate for England and Wales. (per 1,000 population)		...	11.3

## Deaths from Maternal Causes.

There were no deaths from maternal causes during the year 1954.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		...	9.26
Legitimate Infants (per 1,000 Legitimate Births)		...	9.52
Illegitimate Infants (per 1,000 Illegitimate Births)			Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

**Table showing the certified Causes of Death in the district during 1954.**

Registrar General's Figures.

			Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	—
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	5	1
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	2	—
Diabetes	...	...	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	10	17
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	11	12
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	—
Other heart disease	...	...	16	27
Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	2
Influenza	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	1
Bronchitis	...	...	3	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	—	1
Suicide	...	...	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
			—	—
Total all causes	...	...	70	73

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### Hospitals.

The hospital services for Ilfracombe and the surrounding areas are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board through the North Devon Hospital Management Committee.

The hospitals situated in the town are the Ilfracombe and District Tyrrell Hospital which has 32 beds and the Bicclescombe Hospital which has ten beds for convalescent patients, ten for maternity cases and four ante-natal beds.

## **Isolation of Infectious Diseases.**

The North Devon Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford is available for infectious diseases other than small pox.

### **Small Pox.**

Upton Pyne Hospital near Exeter is the one to which any cases of small pox would be sent.

Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, Telephone No. 67158.

**Laboratory Facilities.** Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

**Ambulance Services.** Two motor ambulances, under the control of the County Health Authority, are stationed at Ilfracombe and operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

**Orthopædic Clinic.** Held at Boutport Street, Barnstaple, the first Friday in each month at 11 a.m. by appointment.

**Chest Clinic.** At the North Devon Infirmary Annexe, Barnstaple. Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. for clinic and X Ray examinations, and on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. for A.P. Refills.

**Venereal Diseases Clinic.** This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Females : Mondays 4-0 p.m. Thursdays 4-30 p.m.

Males : Mondays 5-15 p.m. Thursdays 5-45 p.m.

The following sessions are held at the Welfare Centre, Market Street :—

SCHOOL CLINIC. Each Thursday at 10 a.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.m.

DENTAL CLINIC. Each Tuesday at 10 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC. Alternate months. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m.

SPEECH CLINIC. Each Monday at 2 p.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.m.

## **NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND FEVERS.**

The following Infectious Diseases and Fevers are compulsorily notifiable in this district :—

Cholera	Pneumonia (Acute Influenzal)
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	Pneumonia (Acute Primary)
Dysentery (Bacillary or Amoebic)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Infective)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Non-Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Post Infectious)	Puerperal Pyrexia
Erysipelas	Relapsing Fever
Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever
Malaria	Small Pox
Measles	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)
Meningococcal Infection	Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers
Plague	Typhus Fever
	Whooping Cough



**CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954.**

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified								Ages at Death							
	Under 1	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	Total	Under 1	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	Total
Diphtheria	...															
Dysentery	...															
Encephalitis	...															
Erysipelas	...															
Food Poisoning	...															
Malaria	...															
Measles	...		2	1	1			4								
Meningococcal Infection	...															
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...															
Pneumonia	...														1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...															
Puerperal Pyrexia	...															
Scarlet Fever	...			1												
Small Pox	...															
Paratyphoid Fever	...															
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...															
Whooping Cough	...															

## Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55 to 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—

## Measles.

Four cases were notified, one being a visitor who had been infected previous to coming here on holiday.

## Scarlet Fever.

One case only occurred ; this was a very mild one and made a speedy recovery.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1954.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District  
Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Twenty-seventh Annual Report which deals with environmental public health and the public cleansing services during the year ending 31st December, 1954.

Notices served totalled 141, of these 63 were verbal, 74 informal and 4 statutory. The four statutory notices were served to deal with choked drains.

In addition to the notices, 1,396 letters and circulars were issued with reference to the following :—

Infectious Disease, 160 ; Food Supply, 506 ; Ice Cream, 36 ; Refuse Collection and Salvage, 50 ; Housing, 394 ; Nuisances, 16 ; Rodent Control, 21 ; Petroleum Acts, 85 ; Miscellaneous, 128.

44 complaints were received, of these 9 related to Council houses and 18 to other Council properties ; 12 complaints concerned choked street gullies and 5 had reference to public health nuisances.

20 rooms and 264 articles were disinfected, 9 of the rooms in consequence of infectious disease and 11 in order to destroy vermin.

Details concerning the expansion in the work of refuse collection were given in the Annual Report for 1953. This year the work has again been done efficiently and I would like to express thanks to the men for their work particularly at holiday times and when owing to other causes there have been delays and special efforts have been needed to complete the work.



It is pleasing to note there has been some improvement in the market for waste paper. At the beginning of the year there was difficulty in selling the paper but during the last half of the year sales were easier and the price showed a tendency to increase.

Salvage tonnage and income showed a threefold increase over 1953.

Special attention was again given to hotels, boarding houses and other catering establishments, particularly during the summer.

221 different hotels and boarding houses were visited and 316 inspections made.

More kitchen workers are now wearing suitable head covering and clean clothing, there appears to be less smoking by personnel working in kitchens and better use is being made of covered storage to prevent contamination of food or utensils.

Further progress may again be reported in rodent control, the number of infestations once more showing a reduction.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act the Council granted licenses to four slaughtermen and in accordance with the Pet Animals Act, 1951, one licence to keep a Pet Shop was issued. 10 visits were made to this shop.

Towards the end of the year a survey was commenced of the older type of houses and reports on housing were prepared for the Council's consideration.

12 inspections were made of public places of entertainment.

45 visits were paid to inspect piggeries and stables.

199 interviews were arranged, principally in connection with property repairs, and 479 inspections were made to ascertain that sanitary dustbins were in use.

I am grateful to all Members and Officials of the Council for their co-operation and help throughout the year and especially to Mrs. M. Potts for the most courteous and conscientious manner in which she has discharged her duties at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. SAUNDERS, M.S.I.A, C.R.S.I.



## SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	31
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	20
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	6
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Chimney stacks repaired, rebuilt or repointed	...	...	...	...	5
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	...	34
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	11
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	7
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	25
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	11
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	4

### Sanitary Accommodation.

New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet basins cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ walls repaired	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ seats repaired	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ walls limewashed	...	...	...	...	2

### Drainage

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	22
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	3
Soil pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	2
New interceptors fixed	...	...	...	...	2

### Factories.

Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet seats and pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	10
Water closet compartments colourwashed	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ walls repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Water closet cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	3

# Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

## I. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	37	81	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	63	85	1	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	24	—	—
Total ... ..	104	190	1	Nil

## 2. **Cases in which Defects were found**

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were				Number of defects in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	14	14	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	1	1	—	—	—
Total ... ..	23	22	Nil	3	Nil

## OUTWORK.

### SECTION 110

### SECTION 111

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel —Making etc.	7	—	—	—	—	—
Brass & Brass Articles	0	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**Smoke Abatement.** Ilfracombe being a non-industrial district, there are very few factory chimneys.

12 observations, each of thirty minutes duration, were taken of chimneys, but in no instance was smoke emitted in such quantity as to justify any action being taken.

**Sewerage and Drainage.** The district has a modern sewerage system. There are two outfalls, both of which discharge into the tideway of the Bristol Channel at points considerably below low water marks and these have proved most satisfactory.





# Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	24
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	4

---

## Housing Statistics.

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	190
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	713
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	52
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	133
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	112

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ..	106
---	--------	-----

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

#### A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	... ..	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0



B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	112
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	... ..	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	1

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	0

**Housing Act, 1936:—Overcrowding.**

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year		3
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	4
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	16
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year		8
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year		5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	36
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions :		

Four of the overcrowding cases were relieved by the transfer of families to Council houses, in the fifth case other arrangements were made.

**Housing.** 14 families living in 6 requisitioned properties were rehoused and the premises released this year. The Council now have no houses under requisition.

Three families consisting of 15 persons living in condemned houses were given tenancies of Council houses and 16 other families living under unsatisfactory conditions were rehoused.

With the Council's permission a family in Ilfracombe exchanged houses with a family living in Exeter.

In 3 cases families were transferred to larger houses to meet the need for extra bedrooms.

Four families by mutual arrangement were allowed to exchange houses and thus provide more suitable accommodation, three others were granted transfers for various reasons.

On 31st December there were 204 names on the list of applicants for Council houses.

142 of these already were tenants of houses or separate flats, 31 were sharing accommodation with other families and the remaining 31 applications were from persons who are neither living nor working in Ilfracombe.

**Demolitions.** No. 1 Highfield Road has been demolished by the Owner.

The Demolition Order in respect of No. 2 Frys Court became operative this year.

Nos. 2 & 3 Frys Court have not yet been demolished.

**Camping Grounds.** Three sites are licensed for use as camping grounds, each of these is provided with a main water supply and water closets.

During the holiday season three other sites were in use for short periods.

A survey of all camping grounds was made early in August and it was then found that the six sites were occupied by a total of 71 caravans and 168 tents accommodating approximately 782 campers.

With the exception of two sites on which a few caravans are occupied all the year round, the camps are used only during the holiday period.

23 inspections were made, the camps generally are maintained in a reasonable condition but in one case complaints had to be made respecting neglect in keeping the site clean and tidy.

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## Water Supply.

The public supply in the Council's Area was consistently satisfactory in quality and also in quantity throughout the year.

The water is derived from two main sources :—

- (a) Watershed of open moorland forming part of the Forest of Exmoor.
- (b) A limited gathering ground in the vicinity of the Slade Reservoirs.

There is a piped supply of water for all the population with the exception of a few in the outlying parts of the district who have their own private supplies. No houses are supplied by means of standpipes.

12 samples of water were taken from taps served by the public mains, these were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for bacteriological examination. 11 of the samples gave Class 1 results and 1 sample was placed in Class 2.

No samples were obtained this year for chemical examination.



**Private Water Supplies.** Three samples were taken from private supplies intended for use on a dairy farm, the sample from one source gave only a moderate result, samples from the other source gave Class 1 results and were accordingly recommended.

**Sea Water Swimming Baths.** The filtration and chlorination plant in use at the Council's Swimming Baths is modern and efficient. Tests are frequently made by this Department to ensure that efficient chlorination is carried out.

Two samples of the water were bacteriologically examined, in both cases results were highly satisfactory.

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## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The Public Abattoir has not been in use as a slaughterhouse since 1942 but until the end of meat control in July this year the large cooling hall was occupied by the Ministry of Food as a Depot for meat allocation.

No slaughterhouse was in use in Ilfracombe during 1954.

The number and types of food premises in the area are as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	8
Butchers shops...	...	...	11
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	41
Confectioners	...	...	24
Fish and Chip Fryers	...	...	5
Fishmongers	...	...	6
Greengrocers	...	...	15
Grocers and Provisions Dealers			25
Market	...	...	1

Inspections made in connection with food premises included :—

Bakehouses, 61 ; Cafes and Hotels, 316 ; Food Shops, 1275 ; Markets, 49 ; Meat Carriers Vehicles, 60 ; Meat Depot, 131 ; Other Food Premises, 71.

44 premises are registered for the manufacture or sale of preserved meat. 49 visits of inspection were made to these.

Unsound food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was :—

**Meat.** 11½ lbs. beef, Abscess ; 17 lbs. beef, Bone Taint ; 16½ lbs. beef, Traumatism ; 8 lbs. ox liver, Distomatosis ; ox head, Tuberculosis ; pigs head, Tuberculosis ; 55 lbs. mutton, Decomposition ; 10 lbs. pork, Decomposition.

### *Fish.*

Fish Fillets	...	3 st.	Lemon Sole	...	6¾ lbs.
Herring Melts	...	1 „	Plaice	...	9 „
Kippers	...	4½ lbs.	Prawns	...	7 „

## Poultry.

Chicken	...	19	Turkey	...	1
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## *Tinned and Bottled Goods.*

Apples	... 15 tins	Steak	... 45 tins
Apple Puree	... 4 "	Corned Beef	... 8 "
Apricots	... 47 "	Ham	... 19 "
Apricot Pulp	... 10 "	Jellied Veal	... 1 "
Blackberries	... 4 "	Minced Beef Loaf	... 6 "
Blackcurrants	... 22 "	Mixed Luncheon Meat	... 27 "
Bilberries	... 8 "	Mutton	... 1 "
Cherries	... 14 "	Ox Tongue	... 26 "
Fruit Cocktail	... 14 "	Pork	... 6 "
Fruit Salad	... 8 "	Pork & Beef	... 3 "
Gooseberries	... 2 "	Pork Brawn	... 7 "
Grapes	... 6 "	Pork Luncheon Meat	... 28 "
Grapefruit	... 30 "	Crabmeat	... 1 "
Loganberries	... 12 "	Dressed Crab	... 1 "
Mandarin Oranges	... 4 "	Herrings	... 2 "
Oranges	... 17 "	Herring Roes	... 1 "
Orange Juice	... 2 "	Pilchards	... 11 "
Peaches	... 36 "	Salmon	... 6 "
Peach Pulp	... 6 "	Sardines	... 1 "
Pears	... 24 "	Cream	... 8 "
Pineapples	... 60 "	Creamed Rice	... 3 "
Pineapple Juice	... 1 "	Milk	... 32 "
Pineapple Pulp	... 5 "	Mixed Fruit Puddings	... 3 "
Plums	... 103 "	Plum Puddings	... 2 "
Prunes	... 7 "	Sponge Puddings	... 2 "
Raspberries	... 22 "	Spaghetti	... 1 "
Rhubarb	... 1 "	Lemon Barley Crystals	3 "
Strawberries	... 2 "	Coffee & Chicory	... 1 "
Tomatoes	... 62 "	Cochineal	... 1 bot.
Jam	... 3 "	Essence of Rennet	... 4 "
Marmalade	... 7 "	Orange Squash	... 1 "
Syrup	... 2 "	Sauce	... 7 "
Beans	... 10 "	Apricots	... 3 jars
Beetroot	... 5 "	Cocktail Cherries	... 1 "
Carrots	... 21 "	Fruit Salad	... 12 "
French Beans	... 1 "	Pineapple	... 1 "
Peas	... 59 "	Marmalade	... 2 "
Sweet Corn	... 1 "	Honey	... 3 "
Macedoines	... 1 "	Pickle, mixed	... 1 "
Soup	... 13 "	Pickled Gherkins	... 2 "
Stews	... 15 "	Meat Paste	... 3 "
Beef & Gravy	... 19 "	Fish Paste	... 12 "
Brisket Beef	... 5 "	Celery Salt	... 1 "



### *Other Foods.*

Pork Sausages	... 24 lbs.	Oats	... 1 pkt.
Cheese	... 146 „	Mixed nuts	... 7 „
Dripping	... 8½ „	Sponge Cakes	... 3 „
Flour	... 24 „	Sponge Mixtures	... 69 „
Rice	... 40 „	Split Lentils	... 2 „
Sprouts	... 15½ „	Celery Chese spread	... 8 ctus.
Strawberries	... 3 „		

Total weight :—1 ton., 4 cwts., 19 lbs.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying at the Council's Refuse Tip but in a few cases in which the foods have been suitable for animal feeding, the use for such purpose has been permitted under supervision.

### **MILK SUPPLY.**

There are 11 registered retail distributors of milk in the area.

Four licences were granted to distributors authorising the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and three Dealers Licences authorised the use of the word "Pasteurised."

36 samples of milk were obtained and sent for biological examination. No tubercle bacilli were found in any of the samples.

83 samples of pasteurised milk were obtained by the County Sampling Officer and submitted for examination, of these 2 failed the Phosphatase Test and 2 failed the Methylene Blue Test.

**Ice Cream.** 84 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and 10 for ice cream manufacture.

There are only four premises where ice cream is now manufactured in this district, most of the ice cream sold here is made by large firms whose factories are in other areas and the product is distributed through retailers.

114 visits were made for the purpose of supervising the manufacture or sale of this product and 35 samples were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination ; of these 19 attained Grade 1 standard, 11 were Grade 2, 4 were Grade 3 and 1 was Grade 4.

One of the Grade 3 samples came from a local manufacturer whose previous record was excellent and the cause of this failure could not be ascertained. The Grade 4 result appeared to be due to neglect in pasteurisation, subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Two samples of dried milk powder from a consignment which had been used in the manufacture of this ice cream were sent for examination and proved to be Grade 1 standard.

The other three Grade 3 samples were manufactured by firms whose premises are outside Ilfracombe.

**Shops Act.** Inspections made in accordance with the Shops Act totalled 284.

Sanitary defects remedied and improvements made following inspections comprised :—

The walls and ceilings of 7 rooms were cleansed and redecorated.

In one shop the heating arrangements were improved, 2 shops floors were cleansed. Utensils were cleansed in 3 shops and broken wall plaster was made good in 2 rooms.

The walls of 8 water closets were limewashed or distempered and 3 water closet pans and seats were cleansed.

Broken seats to 2 water closets were repaired and an intervening ventilated space was constructed between a convenience and the shop.

An accumulation of refuse was cleared from the yard of one shop.

**Licensed Houses.** During 1954 the number of visits paid was 28. The general standard of these premises shows further improvement and no complaints had to be made.

A new water closet was constructed in one house to replace one in an unsatisfactory situation.

### **Food Adulteration.**

The Devon County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and the County Medical Officer of Health has again kindly supplied particulars of the samples which were taken in Ilfracombe during the year.

These comprised 9 samples of milk, 2 samples of Raspberry Jam, 4 samples of ice cream, 2 samples of Bland's Pills, 2 samples of Bread and Butter, and one sample each of Table Jelly, Aspro, Tincture of Iodine, Mustard Condiment, Vinegar, Bicarbonate of Soda, Coffee and Chicory, Fish Paste, Ham and Beef Paste, Margarine, Butter, White Pepper, Boric Acid Ointment, Grey Powders and Celery Cheese Spread.

The nine samples of milk were from the same source. Two samples were found to be 11% deficient in fat. A warning letter was sent to the producer.

In one of the samples of bread and butter, the bread was spread with margarine only, proceedings were instituted and defendant fined £1

All other samples were reported genuine.

In addition to the above samples which were submitted to the Public Analyst, nine samples of ungraded milk and two samples of Accredited milk were tested for adulteration by the Gerber method and found genuine.



## Pestology.

**Bed Bugs.** No cases of infestation occurred.

**Fleas.** Two houses were sprayed with insecticide to destroy fleas.

On 4 occasions cells at the Police Station were disinfested after being occupied by verminous persons.

**Flies.** A plague of flies was traced to their harborage in the roof space of a house, spraying with insecticide exterminated them.

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## Rodent Control.

There has been a consistent reduction in the number of infestations and it has only been necessary to employ an operator for part of the year.

During the winter a survey was made of the whole of the district including the farms.

The new rodenticide "Warfarin" has been used by many farmers and others whose premises are specially liable to infestation. The simplicity with which this can be used coupled with the results obtained has encouraged its use by the public in preference to the usual types of poison.

The annual test baiting of sewers was carried out in January, takes were recorded in four manholes and these were treated.

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## Public Cleansing Service.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse, the cleansing of streets and disposal of street sweepings, the cleansing of ladies public conveniences and the collection and disposal of salvage are duties under the direct control of the Health Department.

Staff engaged in this work consists of driver and three collectors with one vehicle for refuse collection during winter, two drivers and four collectors with two vehicles for refuse collection during summer.

One driver with a light van and six sweepers each supplied with an orderly cart are engaged in street cleansing.

The cleansing of ladies public conveniences is done by one female attendant during winter and by two in summer.

Two men are engaged in the disposal of refuse, repair of road and maintenance of sanitary conditions at Killacleave Tip.

In case of emergency one of the tip attendants is transferred to the work of refuse collection.

During 1954 the following refuse and waste was dumped at the tip.

House and Trade Refuse	...	...	985 loads
Street Sweepings	...	...	759 loads
Water tabling, hedge trimmings, etc., from roads and pleasure grounds	...	...	238 loads
Other refuse and waste	...	...	105 loads

In addition 660 loads of shale and soil were brought to the tip by contractors and this was used as covering for the refuse.

Insecticidal powder was regularly used during the summer and proved effective in dealing with flies.

22 loads of leaves collected from the roads were taken to the Council's Nursery Garden and a further 50 loads deposited in private gardens for use as fertiliser.

## Salvage.

Particulars are given in the following table of salvage collected and sold during the year 1954.

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.			£	s.	d.
34	14	2	0	Waste Paper	...	217	0	8
11	3	2	0	Cardboard	...	97	15	8
		1	4	Rags	...		7	0
	1	0	3	Carpet	...		4	10
		2	24	Sacking	...		6	9
2	7	0	0	Iron	...	9	8	0
48	7	0	3			£325	2	11

This brings the total of salvage collected and sold in Ilfracombe since 1939 to 2,629 tons for £15,432 11s. 8d.

## Public Sanitary Conveniences.

New conveniences providing three water closets for females and two water closets and three urinal stalls for men were constructed this year on the Cove.

There are no public conveniences in Lee, but two private residents allow the use of water closets, to the doors of which they have fitted slot machines.

All the public conveniences are frequently inspected to ensure the maintenance of sanitary conditions.

## Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

41 licences were granted authorising the storage of a total of 40,360 gallons of petroleum spirit.

2 licences were issued to permit the storage of petroleum spirit mixtures amounting to 150 gallons.

£26 10s. 0d. was received by the Council as licensing fees.

197 inspections were made of garages and petroleum stores.











